

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated March 19, 2007. After entry of this amendment, claims 12-17 will continue to be pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested in view of the remarks made below.

1. The Prior Art Rejections

Original claims 12-17 were rejected under Section 103 based on U.S. Patent 3,667,888 to Blanchard ("Blanchard"). Additionally, original claim 14 was rejected under Section 103 based on a proposed combination of Blanchard and Hafele (U.S. 3,806,300). Applicant respectfully but strenuously traverses these rejections for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 12 reads as follows:

12. (Original) A method comprising:

removing a first cutting arrangement from a pocket formed by complementary recesses of first and second mold halves, the first cutting arrangement being a first one of a pinch bar arrangement and a blade arrangement, wherein the pocket extends over the first and second mold halves; and

removably fastening a second one of the pinch bar arrangement and the blade arrangement onto the mold in the pocket formed by the complementary recesses.

Blanchard discloses a device for removing bottom scraps of extrusion-blown hollow thermoplastic bodies. It includes two embodiments wherein a pair of transverse blades 8, 9 are respectively mounted on mold halves 1, 2. In the embodiment that is depicted in Figures 1-6, the blades 8, 9 are each formed with an upper edge that is shaped to accommodate as near as possible the curvature shape of adjacent pinching edges 13, 14. This is described in column 4, lines 13-16 of the specification. The fact that the disclosure of the Blanchard reference distinguishes between the blades 8, 9 (which perform a cutting function) and the adjacent pinching edges 13, 14 (which perform a pinching function) makes it clear that the blades 8, 9 can

not properly be interpreted as a pinch bar arrangement that has a cutting function, as claim 12 requires.

In a second embodiment that is depicted in Figures 7-13, the blades 8, 9 are provided with hook shaped projections 38, 39 that are designed to provide therebetween a slight counter-rake 40. During the mold closing movement, the lowermost portion of the extruded parison 3, which is pinched between the two hook shaped projections 38, 39, undergoes a certain deformation due to its hot plasticity so as to partially engage the counter-rake portion 40. This is described in column 6, lines 23-41 of the specification.

It is important to note that in both of the embodiments that are disclosed in the Blanchard reference a pair of blades 8, 9 are used to cut the extruded parison, and that neither embodiment discloses a pinch bar arrangement that has a cutting function. Moreover, there is no suggestion or disclosure that would have led a person having ordinary skill in the art to contemplate using a pinch bar arrangement to cut the parison in lieu of the pairs of blades, 8, 9.

Accordingly, independent claim 12 is not anticipated by the Blanchard reference nor is it rendered obvious by the Blanchard reference. Withdrawal of the rejection that was applied in the Office Action is respectfully solicited.

2. Conclusion

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place this application in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of this patent application, he or she is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at 215-599-0600. Contact with the undersigned via electronic mail at jknoble@patentwise.com is hereby authorized¹ per MPEP 502.03.

¹ Recognizing that Internet communications are not secure, I hereby authorize the USPTO to communicate with me concerning any subject matter of this application by electronic mail. I understand that a copy of these communications will be made of record in the application file.

Respectfully submitted,

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